

Case 2843

Aradus caucasicus Kolenati, 1857 (Insecta, Heteroptera): proposed replacement of syntype by a neotype, so conserving usage of the specific name and that of *A. hieroglyphicus* Sahlberg, 1878

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the Caucasian flat bug *Aradus caucasicus* Kolenati, 1857 in its current usage. The only known syntype belongs to the Siberian species *A. hieroglyphicus* Sahlberg, 1878. It is proposed that this syntype should be replaced by a neotype representative of the current usage of *A. caucasicus*.

1. In a paper published in 1857 Kolenati (p. 438) described but did not figure a new species *Aradus caucasicus*. The journal in which he established the name bears the date 1856 on the cover, but that it was not published until the following year is shown by the printed dates of censor permission which are given as 28.II.1857 [Julian style = 12.III.1857] for the journal and 18.III.1857 [Julian style = 30.III.1857] for the separate; the title page of the separate is dated 1857. Kolenati did not state how many specimens he had in the type series. He reported: 'Habitat sub cortice Fagi in Caucaso et Somchetia'. However, it has long been known that Kolenati included in his monograph of Caucasian Heteroptera a number of species that do not occur in the Caucasus; some of them were tropical and others were from Siberia and other regions of Russia (see Horvath, 1884, pp. 111–112; Kiritshenko, 1918, p. 6). In some cases Kolenati gave exact localities in the Caucasus from which they were supposed to have been collected. Apparently Kolenati mixed up specimens he had collected in the Caucasus with material from other regions in the collections of the Zoological Museum (now the Zoological Institute) in St Petersburg where he worked as curator for a year following his Caucasian trip.

2. The only known type specimen of *Aradus caucasicus* is a pinned female in the collection of the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, where it is labelled '(1) Caucaso Kolenati, (2) caucasicus Kol.', the second part being in Fieber's handwriting. It corresponds with Kolenati's short original description and with the redescription of the specimen by Fieber (1861, p. 114). We examined this syntype (see Kanyukova, 1984, p. 13; Kormilev & Froeschner, 1987, p. 40) and showed that it belongs to *Aradus hieroglyphicus* Sahlberg, 1878 (p. 22). This species occurs only from East Kirgisia through Siberia to Japan; records from the European part of Russia are

based on misidentifications (see Kanyukova, 1984, p. 12). The syntype of *Aradus caucasicus* was in point of fact collected by Gebler in Altai as were some other aradids mentioned in Kolenati's paper.

3. Reuter (1884, p. 129) published another redescription of *Aradus caucasicus* based on specimens recorded by Jakovlev (1879, p. 112) from Derbent (East Caucasus); these specimens, although similar to *A. hieroglyphicus*, belonged to a different species. Reuter's concept of *A. caucasicus* has been accepted by all subsequent workers (e.g. Kiritshenko, 1913, pp. 175–179, 1951, p. 297; Kanyukova, 1984, pp. 12–13). *A. caucasicus* sensu Reuter is known from the Crimea and Caucasus (nominotypical subspecies), Iran (subspecies *persicus* Vászrhelyi, 1977) and Middle Asia (subspecies *turkestanicus* Jakovlev, 1894 (p. 138) and subspecies *margianus* Kiritshenko, 1913).

4. Kolossow (1929) wrongly placed *Aradus caucasicus* in synonymy with *A. muricatus* Hummel, 1827, and was followed by others (e.g. Stichel, 1957, p. 20; Usinger & Matsuda, 1959, p. 91; Putshkov, 1974, pp. 117–118). The erroneous synonymy with *A. muricatus* was corrected by Kanyukova (1984, p. 13).

5. Acceptance of the syntype of *Aradus caucasicus* referred to in para. 2 above as the name-bearing type of *A. caucasicus* would have the following results: the well known Siberian species *A. hieroglyphicus* would be called *A. caucasicus*, the species currently known as *A. caucasicus* would be called *A. turkestanicus* Jakovlev, 1894 and its Caucasian subspecies would need a new name.

6. To stabilize the current use of the specific names involved (see Kormilev & Froeschner, 1987, p. 40) we propose that the following specimen be designated as the neotype of *Aradus caucasicus* Kolenati, 1857: Male, pinned, labelled '(1) Derbent (2) 13', from B. Jakovlev's collection deposited in the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, specimen figured by Kiritshenko (1913, p. 178, fig. 63). This specimen belongs to the series of specimens examined by Reuter (1884).

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Aradus caucasicus* Kolenati, 1857 and designate as neotype the specimen referred to in para. 6;
- (2) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *caucasicus* Kolenati, 1857, as published in the binomen *Aradus caucasicus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above;
 - (b) *hieroglyphicus* Sahlberg, 1878, as published in the binomen *Aradus hieroglyphicus*.

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